

The ... length of the ...

curve (or path) is the

length of the curve or path.

A curve is (locally) a curve

parametrized by arc length if it has unit speed.

Ex. Reparametrize $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 3\cos(t), 2t, 3\sin(t) \rangle$ by arc length.

Sol: First, we compute the arc length of the function

$$\begin{aligned}s(t) &= \int_0^t \|\vec{r}'(q)\| dq & \vec{r}'(t) &= \langle 3\cos(t), 2, 3\sin(t) \rangle \\ &= \int_0^t \sqrt{9\cos^2(t) + 4 + 9\sin^2(t)} dq & \|\vec{r}'(t)\| &= \sqrt{9+4} = \sqrt{13} \\ &= \int_0^t \sqrt{13} dq & &= \sqrt{13} \\ &= \sqrt{13}t \Big|_0^t = \sqrt{13}t - 0 = \sqrt{13}t\end{aligned}$$

So $s(t) = \sqrt{13}t$

$$t = \frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}$$

Finally, our reparameterized function is $\vec{r}(s) = \vec{r}(t(s))$

$$= \langle 3\sin(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}), \frac{2s}{\sqrt{13}}, 3\cos(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}) \rangle$$

NB: For the curve above, $\vec{r}'(s) = \langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\cos(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}), \frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}, \frac{-3}{\sqrt{13}}\sin(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}) \rangle$

$$\therefore \text{the magnitude of } \vec{r}'(s) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\cos(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}})\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\sin(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}})\right)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{9}{13}\cos^2(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}) + \frac{4}{13} + \frac{9}{13}\sin^2(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}})}$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{9}{13} + \frac{4}{13}} = \sqrt{\frac{13}{13}} = 1 \text{ for all } s$$

Hence, this reparameterized curve has unit speed. In general, a curve parameterized by arc length always has unit speed.

Now, in 3D physics

Ex. Find the velocity and acceleration of $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 2^t, t^2, \ln(t) \rangle$ at $t=1$

Sol: $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)$

$$= (\ln(2)e^{t\ln(2)}, 2t, \frac{1}{t}) = \langle \ln(2)2^t, 2t, \frac{1}{t} \rangle$$

So, at $t=1$, $\vec{v} = \langle \ln(2)2^1, 2(1), \frac{1}{1} \rangle$

$$= \langle 2\ln(2), 2, \frac{1}{2} \rangle$$

$$\vec{a}(t) = \vec{r}''(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = \langle \ln(2)^2 e^{t\ln(2)}, 2, -\frac{1}{t^2} \rangle \\ = \langle \ln(2)^2 2^t, 2, -\frac{1}{t^2} \rangle$$

$$\vec{a}(1) = \langle \ln(2)^2 (2^1), 2, -\frac{1}{1^2} \rangle$$

$$= \langle 2\ln(2)^2, 2, -1 \rangle$$

Ex. Find the velocity and position functions of the curve with $\vec{a}(t) = \langle \sin(t), 2\cos(t), bt \rangle$ and $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle, \vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, -1, -4 \rangle$

Sol: $\vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt$

$$= \langle -\cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3b^2t \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\text{Now } \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle = \vec{v}(0) = \langle -\cos 0, 2\sin 0, 3b(0)^2 \rangle + \vec{c} \\ = \langle -1, 0, 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\therefore \vec{c} = \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle - \langle -1, 0, 0 \rangle = \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$$

$$\therefore \vec{v} = \langle -\cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 \rangle + \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle \\ = \langle 1 - \cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 - 1 \rangle$$

$$\text{Now } \vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt$$

$$= \langle t - \sin(t), -2\cos(t), t^3 - t \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0 - \sin 0, -2\cos 0, 0^3 - 0 \rangle + \vec{c} \\ = \langle 0, 2, 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\langle 0, 1, -4 \rangle = \langle 0, -2, 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\vec{c} = \langle 0, 3, -4 \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t - \sin(t), 3 - \cos(t), t^3 - t - 4 \rangle$$

Ex. When is the speed of particle with position function $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, 5t, t^2 - 16t \rangle$ at a minimum?

$$\text{Sol: } \vec{r}'(t) = \langle 2t, 5, 2t - 16 \rangle$$

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{2t^2 + 5^2 + (2t - 16)^2}$$

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{4t^2 + 25 + 4t^2 - 64t + 256} \\ = \sqrt{8t^2 - 64t + 281}$$

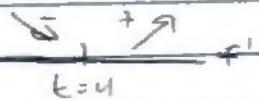
$$\therefore f'(t) = \frac{1}{2} (8t^2 - 64t + 281)^{-1/2} (16t - 64) \\ = 8t - 32 \\ (8t^2 - 64t + 281)^{1/2}$$

$$\text{Note that } 64^2 - 4 \cdot 8 \cdot 281 = 2^{12} - 2^5 \cdot 256 = 2^{12} - 2^5 \cdot 2^8 = 2^2 \cdot 2^8 < 0$$

$\therefore 8t^2 - 64t + 281 = 0$ has no real solutions

\therefore the only critical point of this function is at $8t - 32 = 0$ i.e. $t = 4$

Now applying the 1st deriv test, if $f'(t) < 0$ in $t < 4$ and $f'(t) > 0$ in $t > 4$, then $t=4$ corresponds to a minimum



$$\text{Now } f'(0) = \frac{-32}{\sqrt{281}} < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad f'(5) = \frac{7}{\sqrt{281}} > 0$$

Hence the particle is slowed at $t = 4$

Recall: If $f(t) > 0$ for all t and f is diff. for all t , then f is minimized exactly when $(f(t))^2$ is minimized

$$\text{Alt. Sol: } f(t) = |\vec{r}'(t)| = (8t^2 - 64t + 281)^{1/2} \text{ as before}$$

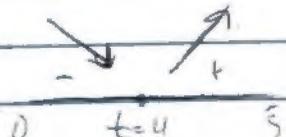
$$\text{Now we minimize } (f(t))^2 = 8t^2 - 64t + 281$$

As before, $8t^2 - 64t + 281 \neq 0$ for all t

Now $(f(t))^2 = g(t)$ is minimized via the 1st deriv test

$$g(t) = 16t - 64$$

$$g'(t) = 0 \text{ if } t = 4$$



\therefore the particle speed is minimized at $t = 4$

Ex. A ball is kicked at angle 60° above ground. If it lands 90m away, what initial speed was it thrown? Accel due to gravity = 9.8 m/s^2

Sol:

$$a(t) = \langle 0, -9.8 \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = |\vec{v}(0)| \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{3}, \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \right) = \left\langle \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle$$

$$\therefore \vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt$$

$$= \langle 0, -9.8t + \beta \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \frac{c}{2} \langle 1, \sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{c}{2} \\ \beta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} c \end{cases} \quad \therefore \vec{v}(t) = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}, -9.8t + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} c \right\rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t + \gamma, -4.9t^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c + \delta \right\rangle$$

Now at some time t_0 we have

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t_0 + \gamma, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c(t_0 + \delta) \right\rangle$$

*We may assume $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ *

Now notice with our assumption $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ we

obtain $(\gamma, \delta) = 0$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t_0, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c \right\rangle \quad \therefore \frac{c}{2}t_0 = 90 \text{ so } t_0 = \frac{180}{c}$$

$$\therefore -4.9\left(\frac{180}{c}\right)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c = 0$$

Ex. A ball is kicked at $t=0$ from a point $10\sqrt{3}$ m away, such that speed was at the time $t=0$ $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ times the initial speed.

Sol:

$$\vec{v}(t) = \langle 0, -9.8t \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \left| \vec{v}(0) \right| \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{3}, \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \right) = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)$$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \vec{r}(t) &= \vec{r}(t_0) + \\ &= \langle \alpha, -9.8t \cdot \beta \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \frac{c}{2} \langle 1, \sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{c}{2} \\ \beta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} c \end{cases} \quad \therefore \vec{v}(t) = \left(\frac{c}{2}, -9.8t + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} ct \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}(t) &= \int \vec{v}(t) dt \\ &= \left(\frac{c}{2}t + r, -4.9t^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct + s \right) \end{aligned}$$

Now at some time t_0 we have

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle = \left(\frac{c}{2}t_0 + r, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 + s \right)$$

*We may assume $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ *

Now notice with our assumption $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ we

obtain $(r, s) = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}(t_0) &= \left(\frac{c}{2}t_0 - 4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 \right) \quad \therefore \frac{c}{2}t_0 = 90 \text{ so } t_0 = \frac{180}{c} \\ &\therefore -4.9\left(\frac{180}{c}\right)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c = 0 \end{aligned}$$